

**EAMES, WILLIAM MARK  
(1827-1884)  
PAPERS  
1862-1864**

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## INTRODUCTION

The William Mark Eames Papers, 1862-1864, is centered around William Mark Eames (1827-1884), Civil War Surgeon, of Ashtabula, Ohio. The collection occupies .42 cubic feet of shelf space, and numbers approximately 75 items.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the William Mark Eames Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The William Mark Eames Papers, containing approximately 75 items, span the period 1862-1864. The collection consists of correspondence, a memoir, a drawing and a biographical sketch. The bulk of the collection consists of 65 family letters, written by William Mark Eames (1827-1884) to his wife, Mary Elizabeth Eames, and his children while an army surgeon with the 21st Ohio Regiment, the Sanitary Commission and the 157th Ohio National Guard during 1862-1864.

Major Eames' letters, written while stationed near Nashville, Tennessee, in 1862 describe marches, weather, reports of Union sentiment among Nashvillians and of the capture of vast quantities of rebel stores within the city. Letters written from an army hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, describe hospital life, living arrangements, types of patriots treated and food. He also writes about the July 14, 1862 raid of General Nathan Bedford Forrest (1821-1877) on Murfreesboro; some of John Hunt Morgan's (1825-1864) guerrillas that were placed under Major Eames' care after the skirmish at Lebanon, Tennessee; and the rumor of Morgan's visit in disguise.

In May, 1864, Eames joined the 157th Ohio National Guard as a "100 day man" and again the letters recount his experiences, while stationed at Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island near Baltimore, Maryland, until his ultimate discharge. Included in his letter during this period is a pencil sketch of one side of this prison for Confederate soldiers.

Transcript copies have been included with the original letters in the correspondence.

Major Eames' memoir describes his early childhood years in Massachusetts; schooling; chasing his life's work; medical training; Civil War experiences; and reflections on politicians and life in general.

The William Mark Eames Papers is an important contribution to the history of the Civil War as seen by one Northern Army Surgeon.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### WILLIAM MARK EAMES

- 1827 January 13, born in Hinsdale, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, the son of Medad and Mary (Annable) Eames
- 1852 February 12, married Mary J. Millikan in Portage City, Ohio
- 1862 Enlisted as a surgeon and Major in the 21st Ohio Regiment
- 1862 March 20 - August 24, 1862, stationed at Union Baptist College Hospital, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- 1862 August 27 - September 24, stationed at Nashville, Tennessee
- 1863 Reenlisted and served in Sanitary Commission
- 1864 Joined the 157th Ohio National Guard
- 1864 May 20 - June 2, stationed at Baltimore, Maryland
- 1864 June 10 - August 2, stationed at Fort Delaware, Delaware, a prison for Confederates
- 1864 September, returned home to Ashtabula, Ohio
- 1867 Elected to Ohio State Legislature
- 1884 November 25, died at Ashtabula, Ohio

## CONTAINER LIST

### Box 1

1. Correspondence-- Eames, Albert
2. Correspondence-- Eames, William Mark
3. Correspondence-- Eames, William Mark
4. Correspondence-- Eames, William Mark
5. Correspondence-- Eames, William Mark
6. Correspondence-- Eames, William Mark
7. Diaries, memoirs, etc.-- Eames, William Mark
8. Photographs, drawings, etc.-- Fort Delaware, July 7, 1864
9. Sketches-- Biographical-- Eames, William Mark

## NAME INDEX

This is a name index of correspondence of the Eames, William Mark Papers, together with dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parenthesis denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last number refers to the folder in which the material is found.

Eames, Albert to "sister" [Mary (Millikan) Eames], n.d., re: mentions that he has received a letter from "the Dr." [William Mark Eames]; has not replied because he has learned that Murfreesboro had been taken by the rebels; prospects of farm crops; [letter included from Ellen Eames to Mary (Millikan) Eames], 1

Eames, William Mark (2) to Charlie [Charles] Millikan Eames, n.d., re: glad his son writes; often looks at his son's picture; describes his present living arrangements; describes the dog belonging to Col. Harris; urges his son to be helpful to his mother; describes his medicine shelf; washing clothes and darning stockings, 2

Eames, William Mark (41) to Mary J. (Millikan) Eames, February 25-September 27, 1862, re: Gen. Buell's capture of Nashville; hard march in rain; hopes for mail; rainy weather; very little rations for troops; Cumberland River overflowing in Nashville; large quantities of stores taken from rebels at battle at Fort Donelson; mention of a Nashville citizen who requested his flag be flown over the Capitol building; troop arrivals; Gen. Buell's headquarters in Nashville; likes the appearance of Murfreesboro; Rebels burning cotton; no Union flags seen; urges wife to write often; description of Union College Hospital in Murfreesboro; has entire charge of hospital; writes of death of patients; description of hospital routine; complaints of Army undesirables flocking into

## NAME INDEX, continued:

hospital in order to escape duty; division on forced march to Shelbyville; rejoicing over great victory at Pittsburg and Corinth; his management of hospital better than rebels; sometimes buried 12 a day; happy that wife and new baby could visit him; arrival and departure of troops; visited Nashville and bought clothes; heard sermon that was "dry as the countryside and roads"; news about sick and wounded; many sent home; mention of Gen. Buell on the move; blackberries cost 10 cents a quart; inquires about crops and livestock at home; money owed him; trip to Nashville; trouble with a fellow doctor; typhoid fever; wishes he was at home; blackberries now plentiful and cost 5 cents a quart; celebrated 4th of July with a glass of blackberry wine; wants his sons to be good now for little brother; condition of patients; waited weeks for letters from home; finds Southerners a rebellious race; please send stamps; how his health is; story about a secessionist's treatment of his daughter who wanted to marry a cavalry man; patients in hospital; plans to resign from the army; troop changes; discharges; has jaundice; report of raid on Murfreesboro by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest; still under confederate flag; slave owners looking for runaway slaves; Gen. Nelson issues proclamation for return of U.S. Government property; escape of federal soldier through enemy lines; tracking Rebel cavalry; Texas Rangers under truce to exchange prisoners; Negroes ordered to work fortifying depot; hospital sick report; Gen. Nelson orders Negroes sent away and hospital must do own chores; diet for men poor; may establish third hospital; writes about possible resignation; went to Nashville and received a lot of sanitary goods; lack of clothing for patients; has not been paid; Robert back after being captured by Rebels; strong fortifications at Murfreesboro; write oftener and more; large number of teams going out with provisions for Nelson's division; patient reports; new Union General, Gen. Crufts; drafting men for army; appetite good, plenty of fresh vegetables; another raid in Kentucky; Rebels have possession of Gallatin and Nashville and Louisville Railroad; every day in hospital worth years of experience in private practice; misses the children; may be leaving hospital and joining regiment in Alabama; no mail; waiting for successor; expectations of attack; skirmish six miles above Nashville - Rebel cavalry executed well in vicinity of Nashville; another fight at Gallatin and Rebels whipped Federals; main Rebel army at Battle Creek; in Nashville waiting to leave; big skirmish fourteen miles east of Deckerd; Bragg reported near with 40,000 men; 21st Regiment had fight in vicinity of Columbia - expected to reach Nashville; railroad communication still closed; pay reduced to \$35 per month; 21st regiment arrives in Nashville after being attacked by bushwackers; lots of mosquitoes; some soldiers drunk and committed foolish deeds; town well fortified; regiment encamped on a hillside on Franklin Pike near a fort (Fort Negley) under construction; first mail in three weeks; no prospect of coming home now; content with camp life; huge cloud of dust over Murfreesboro caused by troop movement; sorry Charlie is sick; moved camp from St. Cloud Hill back to railroad depot; men on one half rations; moved to third camp, now in sight of Capitol; turned down an offer to be a Brigade surgeon on the General's staff due to health reasons; bothered by lice; Rebel time is short; railroad to Louisville badly out of repair; Robert quite well and busy treating wounded soldiers; prevailing disease is diarrhea and dysentery; box of canned

fruit from home has now arrived; Gen. Negley in command, 3

## NAME INDEX, continued:

Eames, William Mark (18) to Mary J. (Millekan) Eames, May 16 - Sept. 1, 1864, re: promoted to major; information about new doctor; pleased with officers in charge; may be on move again; anxious for news from home; regiment on the move; will write as soon as settled; details on care of horse and garden; hospital report; requests food and newspaper; report on reception on march to Baltimore; troops fed by civilians; description of gun foundry; news about living conditions; establishing hospital; requests parcel to include towels and pictures; no store to purchase anything; asks about sons write; prescribing treatment for a neighbor at home; 100 days will soon be up; report on shopping trip to Baltimore; washing clothes; hospital report; comment about "darkies"; explain they are at Relay House to guard railroads; arrival of mail; now at Fort Delaware, an island prison for Rebels; 3800 hospital burials since began; description of life at Fort Delaware; expecting 2000 more Rebel prisoners; anxious for mail from home; has bought Rebel souvenirs; vaccination of the regiment; more than 50 Rebel officers sent to Charleston, S.C.; sending picture; instructions to sell house and cow; requests that children write; may need some money; doctors' routine very light; lack of mail; praises wife for managing finances so well; attempted escapes of Rebel prisoners; attack of cholera marbus; believe Rebels out of Maryland; after making raids for cattle and horses; ate green corn for dinner; busily filling out forms; trip on U.S. gunboat on Delaware River; health good; could be drafted; needs two more months to be exempted; sketch of Fort Delaware; advises to keep cow; another boat ride ended on sandbar; voices opinion about burning Rebel cities; inflation prices; city full of peaches, blackberries, tomatoes, and watermelons; attending lectures in Philadelphia; in Columbus, Ohio, hoping to head home; explains mustering out system; remarks about McClellan's nomination; recruiting; regiment troubled by measles and small pox; trying to survive on army rations; reads Bible every day; prices of clothes, 4

Eames, William Mark (3) to Millie (William) Millikan Eames, n.d. - July 10, [1864], re: describes a steamboat ride; writes about Col. Nieblings who has a zouave uniform and missing front teeth; mentions that he has seen many Rebels; extracting bullets from Union shoulder shot by Rebels; describes a dog in the regiment that howls whenever the band begins playing; had several pictures taken at Wilmington; boat ride ends with boat running aground; Rebel Colonel shot and dies when he does not respond to challenge; sending sketch of Fort Delaware with description, 5

Eames, William Mark to Willie and Charlie Eames, n.d., re: will be home in "three or four weeks"; describes nine little Negro children seen in Virginia; have large cannons that make much smoke, 6